



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: February 2021



Community Members:

We appreciate your cooperation and flexibility during these challenging times. We are grateful to serve Gahanna, and for your commitment to our Division and our community.

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Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

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Summary of Division Activity for January

Support Services - Communications Center:

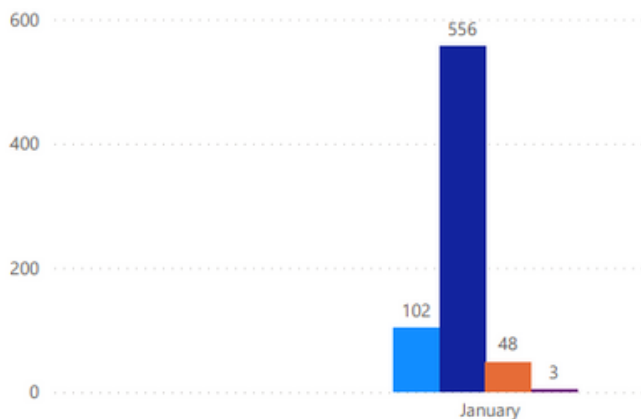
- Dispatchers handled 710 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of four seconds. No text-to-911 messages were received.
- 78.4% of all 9-1-1 calls received originated from cellular phones. 14% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,241 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in January.
- 9-1-1 call volume decreased approximately 10% when compared to the total for January 2020.
- 2,195 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

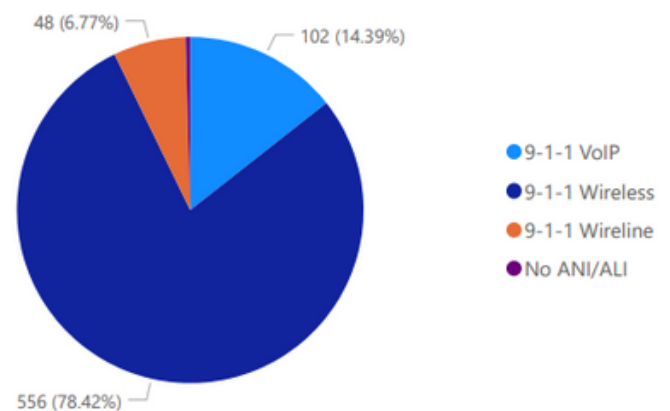
Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non-Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
Total	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0

Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type

● 9-1-1 VoIP ● 9-1-1 Wireless ● 9-1-1 Wireline ● No ANI/ALI



Year-to-Date 9-1-1 Total Calls



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Summary of Division Activity for January

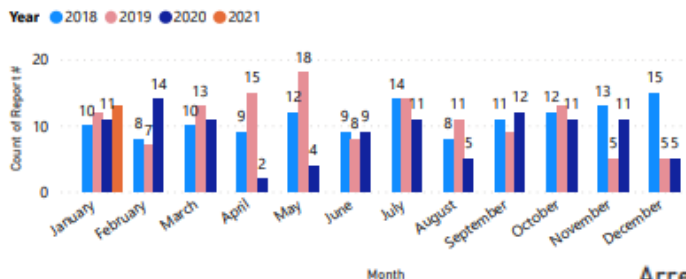
Field Services

- 324 offense and arrest reports were generated, including the following incident summary:
 - One robbery was reported.
 - Nine theft from vehicle reports were reported in January.
 - 13 criminal damaging incidents occurred, with several involving damage to motor vehicles from the removal of catalytic converters. An arrest was made related to a 2020 incident.
 - One burglary and three breaking & entering offenses were reported.
 - Four stolen vehicles were reported.
 - Incidents of assaults (non-domestic):
 - One aggravated assault involving a vehicle on IR-270, struck by a bullet fired from an unknown area or direction.
 - Two simple assault reports and one arrest.
 - Domestic-related responses:
 - 20 documented disputes that did not involve criminal offense.
 - Four incidents resulted in arrests.
 - Four offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
 - Drug offenses for the month:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – Five offense reports and one arrest.
 - Drug equipment violations – Five offense reports.
 - Five overdose responses occurred during the month with one fatality. Heroin, Fentanyl and opioid prescription medications were involved.
- 26 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 515 self-initiated traffic stops. 165 traffic violators were issued citations only, an additional 14 arrests were made as a result of the stops.

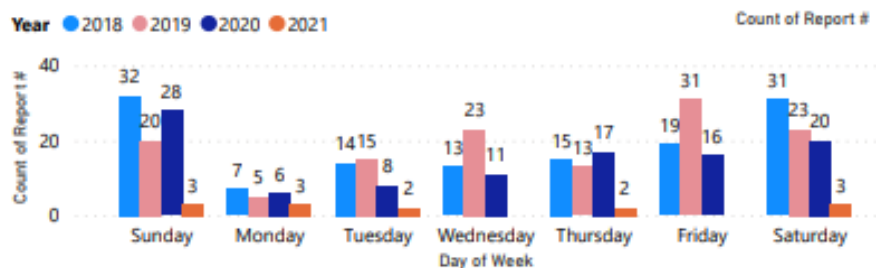
Summary of Division Activity for January

- The Division responded to 32 motor vehicle crashes.
 - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
 - One crash was classified as serious injury suspected – 3.1% of crash responses.
 - Three were classified as minor injury suspected – 9.3% of crash responses.
 - Five were classified as injury possible – 15.6% of responses.
 - The remaining 23 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 71.8% of responses.
 - Nine crashes occurred on IR-270 – 28.1% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
 - Two incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 6.2% of crash responses.
 - One commercial vehicle was involved in a crash during the month.
 - Distractions were reported in 12 of the 32 reported crashes – 37% of all crashes involved some level of operator distraction.
- Patrol officers administered 13 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
 - Six arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
 - The laboratory analysis of bodily fluids in two arrests are pending.
 - The average blood alcohol content for the seven arrestees that submitted to testing was .17, or just over twice the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.

Arrests by Month



Arrests by Day of Week

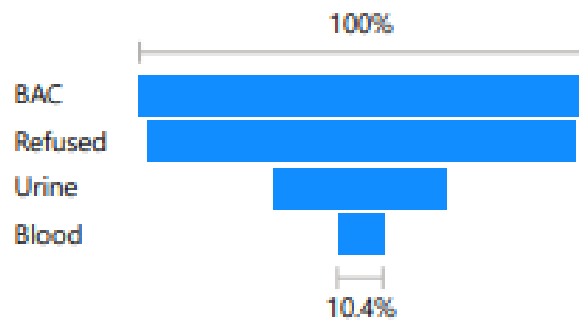


Summary of Division Activity for January

Average BAC



Testing Type Total



Investigative Services

- The Division's detectives were assigned 126 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 15 investigative subpoenas and executed ten search warrants during the month.



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Police Seek Help in Identifying Suspect

On February 15, 2021 at around 9:45 pm, the suspect pictured below entered the Family Dollar convenience store located at 459 Agler Rd. He approached the register with a bottle of soda for purchase. Once the register drawer opened, the suspect ordered the cashier to give him all the money or he would "shoot" - as he pulled up his jacket to reveal a black handgun in his waistband.

The clerk told him he could not reopen it. Another employee, who was not aware of the incident, approached the front of the store and distracted the suspect. In response, the suspect took the bottle of soda and fled the store on foot, across the parking lot towards Agler Rd, heading North.

The suspect was described as a male black, in his early 20s, wearing a black and white jacket with hood up, a blue facemask, and dark or black colored pants.



Should you have information regarding the identity of this suspect, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240

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Brookhill Drive Homicide Investigation



On February 4, 2021 around 9:02 p.m. the Gahanna Division of Police responded to a call of a reported stabbing at a residence in the 100 block of Brookhill Drive. Officers located 47-year-old Linda Purdy deceased inside the residence. Although initially reported as a stabbing, it appeared Linda Purdy had suffered an apparent gunshot wound.

Based on witness accounts, officers and investigators were able to identify 51-year-old Edward A. Johnson, the victim's live-in boyfriend, as a possible suspect. It was determined that a vehicle belonging to the suspect was missing and a search for him was initiated.

Area law enforcement and the Ohio State Highway Patrol were contacted for assistance in locating Johnson. Later in the evening, at approximately 11:50 p.m., the Huber Heights, Ohio Police, who were aware of the Brookhill Drive incident, attempted a traffic stop at an off-ramp of Interstate 70. Upon being stopped, the suspect did not respond or engage with officers. The suspect immediately produced a handgun and shot himself. Johnson was transported from the scene and later pronounced deceased at an area hospital.

Pending an official determination on the cause of death from the Franklin County Coroner's Office, the investigation is being conducted as a homicide with Johnson as the sole suspect in Purdy's death. The investigation is being conducted with assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Franklin County Coroner's Office.

PERSONNEL UPDATE



Officer Morgan Milliken Joins Gahanna Division of Police

Gahanna welcomes Officer Morgan Milliken. Officer Milliken graduated from the Columbus Police Academy on February 12, 2021 after seven months and 1,160 hours of basic police training.

Police Chief Jeffrey Spence and Mayor Laurie Jadwin attended the formal academy graduation. On February 15, 2021 Officer Milliken hit the streets of Gahanna with our field training officers. We are excited and proud to have her on board.

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FRAUD ALERT: Unemployment Identity Theft



The Ohio Attorney General's Office has received a high volume of fraudulent claims regarding Unemployment Benefits issued through the State of Ohio. The Gahanna Division of Police is also experiencing a high number of these calls from concerned residents. In most cases within our community, we are the primary reporting agency on fraud. However, the validity and investigation of any unemployment claim is handled exclusively by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

A local police report is not necessary to file an unemployment fraud claim as there is no mechanism in place for the Gahanna Division of Police or the Ohio Attorney General to contact ODJFS on your behalf. If you need to report unemployment fraud, please contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) website to file a fraud claim which is the fastest means of notification and initiation of a review on your behalf. If you are advised to file a report, or have other identity theft concerns, please contact us at 614-342-4240. To file a fraud claim: <https://odjfs2.secure.force.com/OUIOFraudReportingPortal>

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Gahanna Division of Police: NOW HIRING




Gahanna

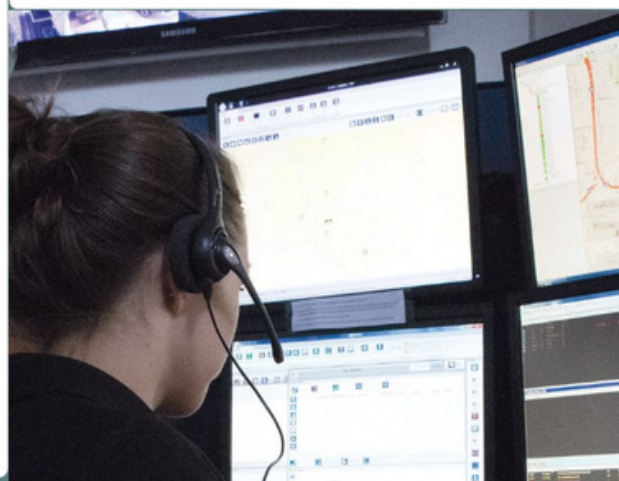
CITY OF GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE

Applications Accepted: Feb. 1-28

**NOW RECRUITING
POLICE OFFICERS
& DISPATCHERS**

614-342-4224

Gahanna.gov/join-our-team



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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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